

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed March 24, 2005. Claims 1, 3-15, 18-40, 43-45, 47-49, 51-53, 55-57, 59-67 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action (claims 2, 16, and 17 were previously canceled, claims 41, 42, 46, 50, 54, and 58 were previously withdrawn). In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 21, 60, 62, 64, and 66, objected to claims 3-6, 8 and 12-15, rejected claims 1, 7, 9-11, 18-40, 43-45, 47-49, 51-53, 55-57, and 59-67. The present response cancels claims 1, 22-31, 33-36, 38, 40, 43, 61, 63, 65, and 67, amends claims 3-15, 18-20, 32, 37, 39, 44, 45, 47-49, 51-53, 55-57, and 59, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 3-15, 18-20, 32, 37, 39, 44-45, 47-49, 51-53, 55-57, and 59. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. Claims 1, 7, 9-11, 18-20, 22-39, 44, 45, 48, 49, 52, 53, 56 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,035,604, issued to *Meleka et al.*

Claims 1, 22-31, and 33-36 have been canceled. Claims 7, 9-11, 18-20, and 32 have been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 21. Claims 37, 45, 49, 53, and 57 have been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 62. Claims 39, 47, 51, 55, and 59 have been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 66. Claims 44, 48, 52, and 56 have been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 60. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

2. Claims 26, 34, 35, 38-40, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by *Böhm et al.* in DE 19925790.

Claims 26, 34, 35, 38, 40, 43, 61, 63, 65 and 67 have been canceled. Claims 45, 49, 53, and 57 have been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 62. Claims 39, 47, 51, 55, and 59 have been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 66. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

II. Allowable Subject matter

Claims 3-6, 8, and 12-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3-6, 8, and 12-15 have been amended in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the objection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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